UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/681
27 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda items 51 and 63 (i)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DISARMAMENT

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: TRANSFER OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY WITH MILITARY APPLICATIONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerzy ZALESKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The items entitled "Science and technology for disarmament" and "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: transfer of high technology with military applications" were included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolutions 45/61 of 4 December 1990 and 46/38 D of 6 December 1991.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include items 51 and 63 (i) in its agenda and to allocate them to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October 1992, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 65, 68 and 142; and 67 and 69. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 21st meetings, from 12 to 28 October (see A/C.1/47/PV.3-21). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place between the 22nd and 30th meetings, from 29 October to 11 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.22-30). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 31st and 40th meetings, from 12 to 25 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.31-40).

4. In connection with items 51 and 63 (i), the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission; 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on transfer of high technology with military applications (A/47/371 and Add.1 and 2);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on science and technology for disarmament (A/C.1/47/INF/2).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1.47/L.15 AND REV.1

5. On 28 October, Brazil and Germany submitted a draft resolution, entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields" (A/C.1/47/L.15), which was later also sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Germany at the 28th meeting, on 10 November.

6. On 11 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/47/L.15/Rev.1), which contained the following changes:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the word "substantive" was replaced by "specific";

(b) In operative paragraph 2, the words "to pursue constructively its work", were revised to read "to pursue constructively in response to resolution 46/36 L its work";

(c) At the end of operative paragraph 4, the words "sensitive technologies with military applications" were revised to read "high technology with military applications".

7. At its 34th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.15/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8). Since the text of the draft resolution is reproduced in paragraph 8 below, it does not appear in the report of the First Committee under agenda item 63 (A/47/693).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/47/42).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/61 of 4 December 1990 and 46/38 D of 6 December 1991,

Taking note of the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1992 substantive session, in particular on the work of Working Group IV on agenda item 7, entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields", 2/

Taking note of the report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 1992 substantive session, in particular on the work on the agenda item entitled "Transparency in armaments", 3/ which includes, in response to resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, inter alia, the subject of the elaboration of practical means to increase openness and transparency related to the transfer of high technology with military applications,

Recognizing that progress in the application of science and technology contributes substantially to the implementation of arms control and disarmament agreements, inter alia, in the fields of weapons disposal, military conversion and verification,

Recognizing also that norms or guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account legitimate requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that they do not deny access to high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes,

Noting the interest of the international community in cooperation in the fields of disarmament-related science and technology and the transfer of high technology with military applications,

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2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session,

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27), chap. III, sect. I.

1. Calls upon the Disarmament Commission to intensify its work on agenda item 7 and to submit as soon as possible specific recommendations on this matter to the General Assembly;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to pursue constructively in response to resolution 46/36 L its work on the agenda item entitled "Transparency in armaments", which includes consideration of the elaboration of practical means to increase openness and transparency related to the transfer of high technology with military applications;

3. Invites Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

4. Also invites Member States to widen multilateral dialogue, bearing in mind the proposal for seeking universally acceptable international norms or guidelines that would regulate international transfers of high technology with military applications;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session an item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields".